



Girls Giving Grants—a Program of Impact Austin
PO Box 28148 Austin, TX 78755 | g3@impactaustin.org

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Contact: Ami Kane
G3@impactaustin.org

This Dog Will Have its Days in Court

Austin area teens give \$6,800 to support the services of Mickler, a Center for Child Protection therapy dog for children who are called to testify in court

AUSTIN, Texas – April 19, 2017 – Center for Child Protection’s canine courtroom accompaniment program is the 2017 grant recipient chosen by the 68 young women from Girls Giving Grants (g3), the youth initiative of Impact Austin, a local women’s philanthropic organization. At a 5:30 p.m. check presentation on April 26, 2017, g3 will award \$6,800 to Center for Child Protection to help fund the Center’s new therapy dog, Mickler, a golden retriever/yellow lab who is a year-and-a-half old.

The Center for Child Protection is the first stop for children in Travis County who are suspected victims of sexual abuse, physical abuse, or neglect, and for children who have witnessed a violent crime. The recent purchase of a new dog allows them to continue to provide comfort to children who must testify in court. While in the courtroom, the dog never leaves the client’s side. As the Center shared in their grant request, “While the child is on the stand, [the dog] often places her head in their lap, as if to say ‘I am here.’”

"After reviewing nearly 40 grant applications, and conducting two site visits, we are excited to award our 2017 grant to Center for Child Protection," said Emma Jane Hopper, g3’s 2016-2017 President and a 11th grade student at AISD’s Liberal Arts and Science Academy. “We believe their canine courtroom accompaniment program that helps abused minors is incredibly unique and vital for those who participate in it.”

G3 provides an unparalleled opportunity to learn about the power of collective philanthropy. Girls combine their \$100 individual donations from their own money, review grant applications and award a single grant to a charitable organization annually. G3’s 2016-2017 members attend 17 middle and high schools in the Austin area and membership is open to young women in grades 8 through 12.

Since 2006, g3 has awarded \$63,100 to the Greater Austin community. Past recipients include People’s Community Clinic, Austin Sunshine Camps, Hospice Austin, Helping Hand Home, Casa Marianella, Austin Diaper Bank, and LifeWorks.

Enrollment for the 2017-2018 class is now open. For the first time, the members have raised scholarship funds for six members, which are available to girls who cannot afford the \$100 contribution on their own.

“This program was started by teenage girls who saw an opportunity to make a difference in their community,” said Ami Kane, director of Girls Giving Grants. “G3 is the only all-girl, grant-making cooperative in Austin that is fully funded and operated by its young members. Our members have complete ownership—from funding the grant themselves, to making the final determination of their grant recipient. Their grants make an impact on the community today and the learning experience makes an impact on the girls forever.”

Girls Giving Grants is the youth extension of Impact Austin. Impact Austin is a 501(c)(3) public charity made up of women seeking to transform lives in the Austin area through high-impact and lifelong giving. For more information, visit www.girlsgivinggrants.org.

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